

set up electronic exchanges in Vaishali, Lalganj, Sarai, Goraul, Sahebganj, Deoria and Saraiya in Muzaffa, and Vaishali District of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be setup?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. Except Vaishali where there is no telephone exchange at present due to non availability of requisite paid demands.

(b) Sarai, Electronic Exchange is already set up. Lalganj: Planned to be replaced by electronic exchange during 1991-92.;

Goraul	Planned to be replaced
Sahebganj	by Electronic Exchanges
Deoria	
Saraiya	progressively during 1991-95

[English]

Norms for Opening of New Post Offices

5023. SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where new post offices are proposed to be opened during 1991-92 in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the norms fixed for opening of different categories of Post Offices in the country;

(c) whether the Government propose to relax the norms in respect of rural areas to cover every village in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) It is proposed to open, subject to justification, Post Offices at Mustikunta, Ogirala and Ayurupudi Villages of Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh during 1991-92.

(b) Norms for opening of Post Offices have been given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d). The Government have recently revised the norms which are effective from 1.4.91.

STATEMENT

*Norms for opening of Post Offices;
Effective From 1.4.1991. Branchpost
Offices:-*

In normal Rural Areas.

i) *Population:-*

3000 population in group of villages.

ii) *Distance:-*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kmts.

iii) *Anticipated income:-*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33-1/3% of the cost.

i) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and in accessible Rural Areas;

Population:-

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

ii) Distance:-

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate.

iii) Anticipated income:-

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

SUB POST OFFICES:

In so far as Urban areas are concerned the norms for opening Post Offices are as follows:-

i) The anticipated income should not be less than the anticipated cost. At the first review, the actual income should be 5% more than the actual cost.

ii) No new post offices should be opened within 2 Kmts. of an existing Post Office (1.5 Kmts. in the case of metropolitan and other cities with a population of 20 lakh and above).

[Translation]**Central Assistance for Improvement of
Jail System in Maharashtra**

5024. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether that Government of Maharashtra has submitted any scheme to the Union Government for financial assistance to improve the existing system of jails in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIM.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The Government of India is implementing a Scheme for Modernisation of Prison Administration under which funds are released to the various State Governments, including the State Government of Maharashtra. The Central Government have released a sum of Rs. 120.41 lakhs over the period 1987 to 1991 for modernisation of the jails in Maharashtra on the bases of proposal received from the State Government.

[English]**Demands of Andaman and Nicobar
Motor Vehicles Drivers' Union**

5025. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any charter of demands in March 1991 from the Andaman and Nicobar Motor Vehicles Drivers Union, Saidpur, Portblair;

(b) if so, the details of their demands and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Motor Vehicle drivers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been on strike since July 15, 1991;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints regarding atrocities on them by the police;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIM.M.**